

"Domestic Violence Training Curriculum for Officers"

Request for Appropriations, Representative Pierucci

EOGJ Appropriations Committee

February 4, 2021

The Purpose of HB301 Domestic Violence Training Curriculum for Officers

1) Implements specialized training for law enforcement

Requires the Department of Public Safety and Peace Officer Standards and Training create a training program for law enforcement officers in:

- recognizing domestic violence indicators; providing lethality assessments; and writing reports on incidents

2) Creates a cooperative plan to analyze 5+ years of state-funded domestic violence lethality data specific to Utah to:

- support policy development and data-driven best practices and advise the Utah legislature annually in Interim Legislative Session

Why is this bill and RFA necessary?

- ▶ Since 2000, 42% of Utah's homicides are domestic violence related.
- ▶ 39% of DV-related homicides include the suicide of the perpetrator.
- ▶ In 2019 there were 180 homicides in Utah, 35% of those were domestic violence related
- ▶ Domestic violence calls are incredibly dangerous for law enforcement, more officers die in response to DV calls than any other type of crime
- ▶ 70% of IPV homicide victims are killed within the first 72 hours following departure from an abusive partner; 65% of those DV victims had open DCFS cases at the time of their murder; less than 2% had an order of protection.
- ▶ Domestic violence calls are incredibly dangerous for law enforcement, more officers die in response to DV calls than any other type of crime

(Source: Utah Department of Health and the National Violent Death Reporting System)

How is Utah Addressing Domestic Violence Fatalities?

- ▶ Lethality Assessment Protocol Initiated as a pilot in Utah in 2015, statewide in 2016; funded with ongoing SGF in 2019
- ▶ Since Implementation in SFY16, over 19,000 survivors have engaged in LAP with over 70 law enforcement agencies statewide
- ▶ In 2017, Utah's DV Fatality rate dropped two consecutive years in a row; with Covid, in 2020 stress and lethality risk increased.
- ▶ HB301 aligns law enforcement and victim resources, improving access to care for high risk survivors and reducing lethality risk.

Funding for HB301 Domestic Violence Training Curriculum for Officers will strengthen law enforcement training specifically in:

- Recognizing the symptoms of domestic violence and trauma;
- An evidence-based assessment to identify victims of domestic violence who may be at high risk of being killed by a perpetrator;
- Lethality assessment protocols and interviewing techniques, including indicators of strangulation;
- Responding to the needs and concerns of a victim of domestic violence;
- Delivering services to victims of domestic violence in a compassionate, sensitive and professional manner;
- Understanding the cultural perceptions and myths of domestic violence.

Proposed Budget Request for ongoing SGF for HB301

Itemized Budget

Online Hybrid Course

Purchase Course - or develop Course \$17,500
Develop Instructor Led Virtual - \$4,000
Develop Online Student Paced Training - \$12,000
Delivery statewide via virtual classroom - \$4,000
POST training - \$2,500
Total: \$40,000

Performance and Outcome Measures

Performance/Outcome Measures

- ▶ Development of the Domestic Violence Training Curriculum and lethality assessment training curriculum by the Department of Public Safety.
- ▶ Outcome: the creation of an online, hybrid domestic violence course by July 1, 2021.
- ▶ Outcome: The Department of Public Safety will offer the POST training and in-depth online course for domestic violence for officers by fall of 2021.
- ▶ Outcome: The Department of Public Safety will monitor interest and participation and report back to the legislature in late fall of 2022.